DARK HORSE COMICS
DARK HORSE COMICS
20
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COMICS' GREATEST WORLD
X: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
LUKE - LAM
PREDATOR: BLOOD ON TWO-WITCH MESA
LABAN - COBB
B·R·O·M

DARK HORSE #20 COMICS

PREDATOR: BLOOD ON TWO-WITCH MESA 1

PART 1 OF 2
SCRIPT: TERRY LaBAN
ART: HOWARD COBB
LETTERER: VICKIE WILLIAMS
COLORS: LEA HERNANDEZ
SCRIPT EDITOR: JOHN WEEKS

X: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE 13

PART 2 OF 2
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LETTERER: STEVE DUTRO
COLORS: RAYMOND P. MURTAUGH

DARK HORSE COMMENTS 25

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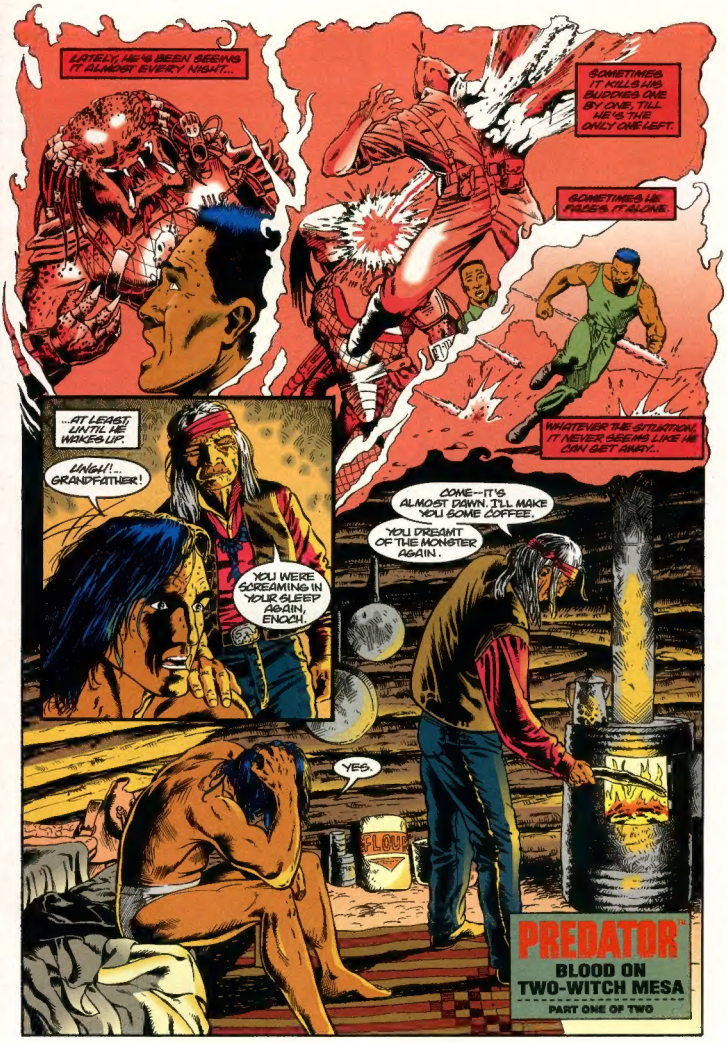
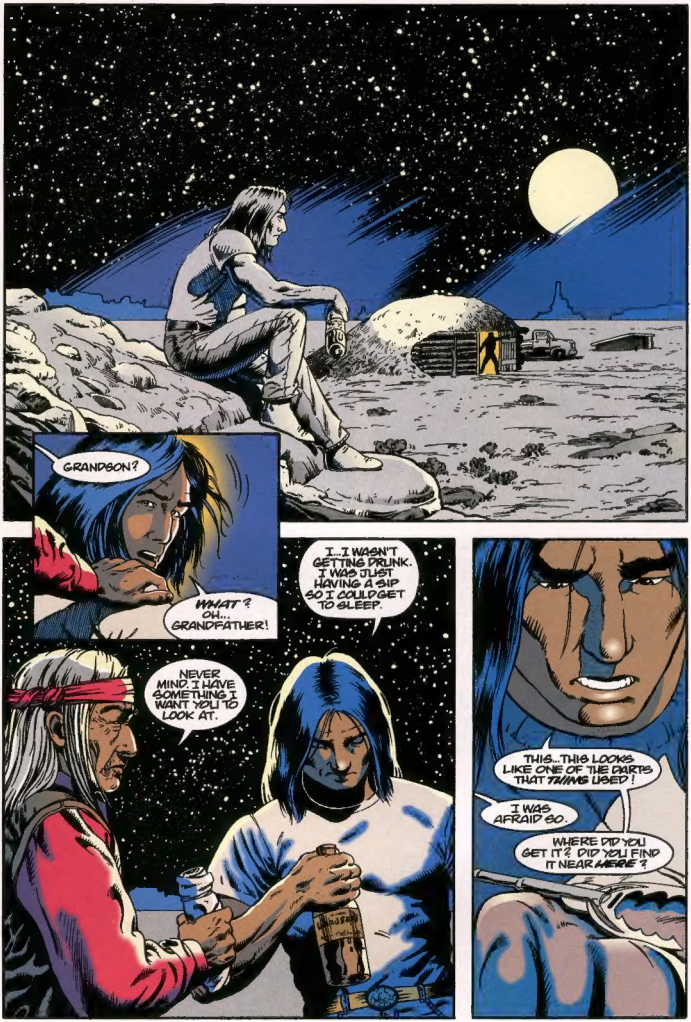
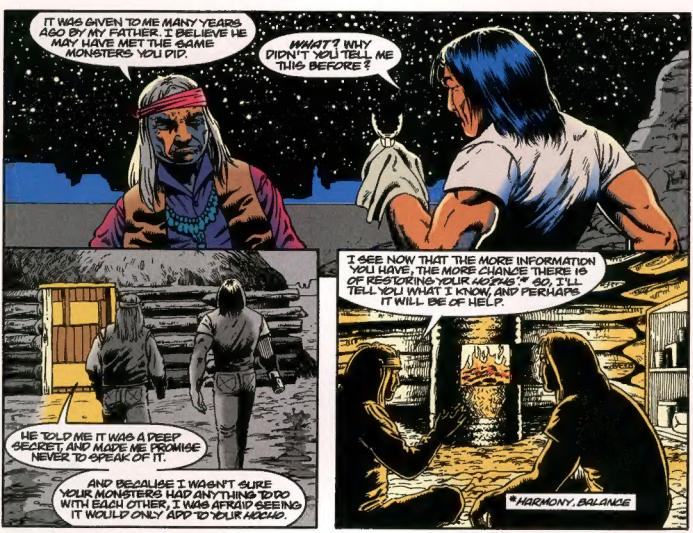

LATELY, HE'S BEEN SEEING IT ALMOST EVERY NIGHT...
SOMETIMES IT KILLS HIS BUDDIES ONE BY ONE, TILL HE'S THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
SOMETIMES HE FACES IT ALONE.
WHATEVER THE SITUATION, IT NEVER SEEMS LIKE HE CAN GET AWAY...
...AT LEAST, UNTIL HE WAKES UP.
UHGH!... GRANDFATHER!
YOU WERE SCREAMING IN YOUR SLEEP AGAIN, ENOCH.
COME--IT'S ALMOST DAWN. I'LL MAKE YOU SOME COFFEE.
YOU DREAMT OF THE MONSTER AGAIN.
YES.
FLOUR
PREDATOR
BLOOD ON TWO-WITCH MESA
PART ONE OF TWO

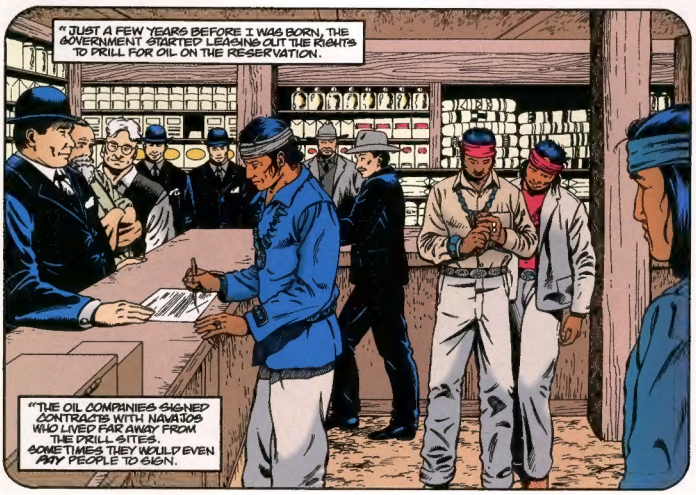
EVERY NIGHT IT GETS WORSE, ENOCH. THE EVIL OF THIS THING IS PULLING YOU DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO HOCHS'.*
IT'S NOT JUST THE CREATURE'S EVIL THAT PULLS AT ME, GRANDFATHER.
* ILLNESS
NO MATTER. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEING HARMED.
GRANDFATHER, PLEASE! THIS ISN'T A CASE OF THE FLU OR, EVEN WITCHCRAFT. A HOCHS' 'OT?* ISN'T GOING TO MAKE IT GO AWAY! I NEED SOME ANSWERS!
* CEREMONY TO RID ONE OF EVIL INFLUENCES.
LOOK, SON—WE GIVE YOU A LOT OF CREDIT. YOU KILLED THAT THING, AND THAT TOOK GUTS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU CONSISTENTLY DISOBEYED ORDERS, TRESPASSED IN RESTRICTED AREAS, ABANDONED YOUR POST, AND PROBABLY GOT MORE THAN A FEW PEOPLE KILLED!
WE'VE ARRANGED FOR AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FOR YOU ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU TELL NO ONE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK YOU'RE GETTING A PRETTY GOOD DEAL...
YOU'RE DISMISSED, CORPORAL...
...FOR NOW!
NAKAI! MAAA!
HUH?
FAST MART
SELF SERVE
MOTOR OIL
JERKY
WESTERN U.S.A. MAP
ARIZONA STATE MAP

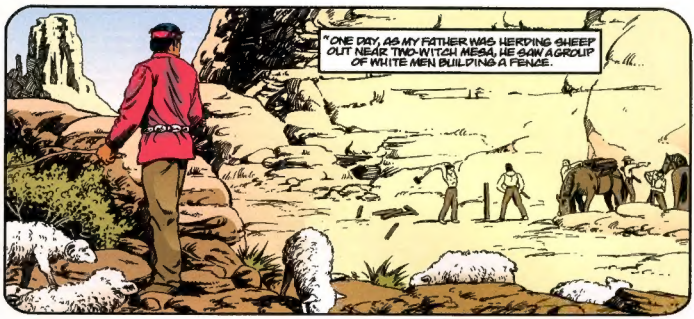
MAN, ARE YOU DEAF? I BEEN SCREAMIN' AT YOU FOR TWO MINUTES! YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S ON THE PHONE!
HI, ALDA. WHAT'S UP? DINNER? OH, YEAH. NO! NO, I DIDN'T FORGET!
YEAH--YEAH, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU, TOO.
FASTWAY
MAN, WHAT IS WITH THAT GUY?
SIR! EXCUSE ME! SIR!...
ENOCH! YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE SAID!
Y-YES I HAVE. YOU WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT YOUR BOSS.
THAT WAS TEN MINUTES AGO!
I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TAKE THIS ANYMORE! YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THE EASIEST PERSON TO TALK TO, BUT LATELY YOU'VE EVEN STOPPED LOOKING AT ME!
I'M SORRY, ALDA. I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY MIND.
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU LET ME IN ON IT?
I JUST DON'T THINK YOU'D UNDERSTAND.
FINE. IF YOU DON'T NEED ME FOR ANYTHING, I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN ME STAYING HERE. BUT IF I GO, I GUARANTEE YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!

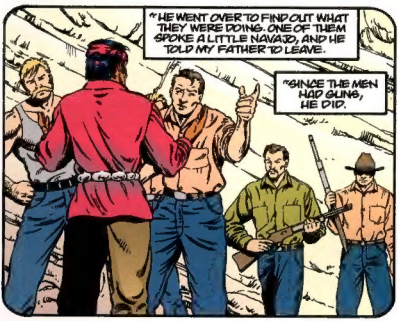
SIGH! ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT, IT'S... IT'S THE MONSTER. THE ONE I FOUGHT.
I FIGURED AS MUCH.
YOU KNOW, ENOCH, IT'S HORRIBLE WHAT HAPPENED. IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT YOU'RE STILL UPSET.
IT'S NOT SO MUCH WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND THE MONSTER, ALDA. IT'S THE WAY THE GOVERNMENT'S GOTTEN ME TO HELP THEM COVER IT ALL UP.
I MEAN, THIS THING COMES DOWN FROM GOD-KNOWS-WHERE, KILLS A BUNCH OF PEOPLE, BLOWS UP A WHOLE ARMY BASE, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S BIGGEST WORRY IS THAT SOMEONE WILL FIND OUT ABOUT IT!
SO THEN I MANAGE TO KILL IT, AND WHAT'S MY REWARD? FIRST I'M HAULED INTO SOME TOP-SECRET ROOM AND QUESTIONED LIKE SOME COMMON CRIMINAL...
...AND THEN I'M GIVEN A PAT ON THE BACK AND TOLD TO GO HOME AND NEVER TELL ANYONE!
CHRIST, AT LEAST THEY COULD'VE GOTTEN ME A DECENT JOB!
THEY TREATED YOU BADLY, ENOCH, BUT THERE'S NO USE FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF. I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE IF YOU'RE NOT!
I'M NOT ANGRY BECAUSE I FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF. IT'S JUST THAT I THINK I HAVE A RIGHT TO FIND OUT...
...WHAT MORE DOES THE GOVERNMENT KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

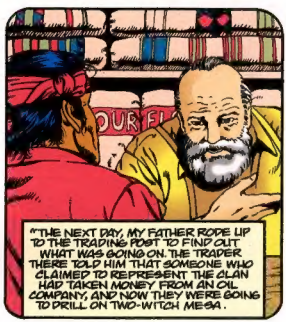

GRANDSON?
WHAT? OH... GRANDFATHER!
I...I WASN'T GETTING DRUNK. I WAS JUST HAVING A SIP SO I COULDGET TO SLEEP.
NEVER MIND. I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT.
THIS...THIS LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE DARTS THAT TWINS USED!
I WAS AFRAID SO.
WHERE DID YOU GET IT? DID YOU FIND IT NEAR MERE?

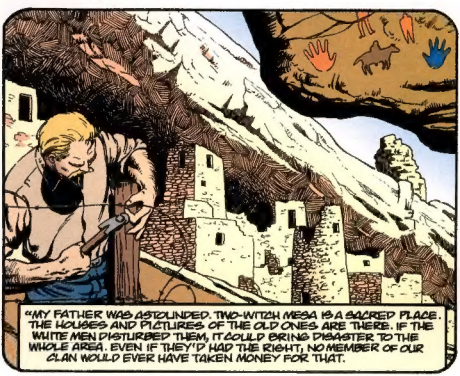

IT WAS GIVEN TO ME MANY YEARS AGO BY MY FATHER. I BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE MET THE SAME MONSTERS YOU DID.
WHAT? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS BEFORE?
HE TOLD ME IT WAS A DEEP SECRET, AND MADE ME PROMISE NEVER TO SPEAK OF IT.
AND BECAUSE I WASN'T SURE YOUR MONSTERS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER, I WAS AFRAID SEEING IT WOULD ONLY ADD TO YOUR HOZHO.
I SEE NOW THAT THE MORE INFORMATION YOU HAVE, THE MORE CHANCE THERE IS OF RESTORING YOUR HOZHO.* SO, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW, AND PERHAPS IT WILL BE OF HELP.
*HARMONY, BALANCE


"JUST A FEW YEARS BEFORE I WAS BORN, THE GOVERNMENT STARTED LEASING OUT THE RIGHTS TO DRILL FOR OIL ON THE RESERVATION.
"THE OIL COMPANIES SIGNED CONTRACTS WITH NAVAJOS WHO LIVED FAR AWAY FROM THE DRILL SITES. SOMETIMES THEY WOULD EVEN PAY PEOPLE TO SIGN.


"ONE DAY, AS MY FATHER WAS HERDING SHEEP OUT NEAR TWO-WITCH MESA, HE SAW A GROUP OF WHITE MEN BUILDING A FENCE.

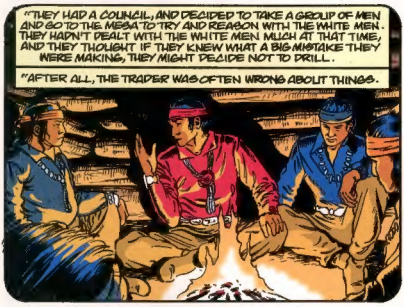

"HE WENT OVER TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY WERE DOING. ONE OF THEM SPOKE A LITTLE NAVAJO, AND HE TOLD MY FATHER TO LEAVE.
"SINCE THE MEN HAD GUNS, HE DID.


"THE NEXT DAY, MY FATHER RODE UP TO THE TRADING POST TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON. THE TRADER THERE TOLD HIM THAT SOMEONE WHO CLAIMED TO REPRESENT THE GLEN HAD TAKEN MONEY FROM AN OIL COMPANY, AND NOW THEY WERE GOING TO DRILL ON TWO-WITCH MESA.

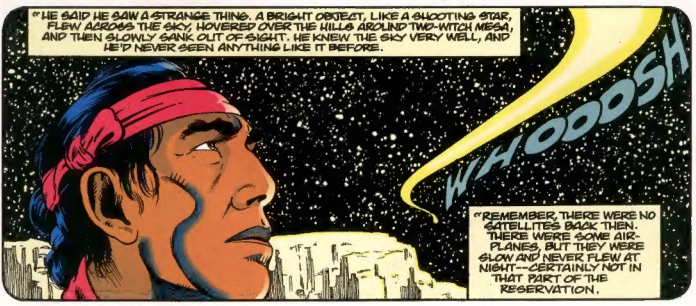

"MY FATHER WAS ASTOUNDED. TWO-WITCH MESA IS A SACRED PLACE. THE HOUSES AND PICTURES OF THE OLD ONES ARE THERE. IF THE WHITE MEN DISTURBED THEM, IT COULD BRING DISASTER TO THE WHOLE AREA. EVEN IF THEY'D HAD THE RIGHT, NO MEMBER OF OUR CLAN WOULD EVER HAVE TAKEN MONEY FOR THAT.

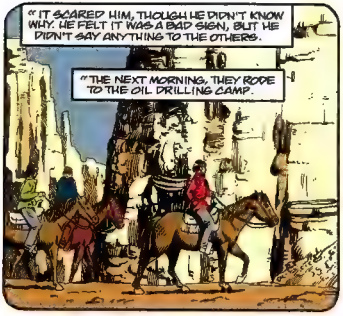
"THE TRADER TOLD MY FATHER THERE WAS NOTHING ANYONE COULD DO. HE SAID THE OIL COMPANY WAS VERY STRONG, AND IT DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE NAVAJO'S SACRED PLACES.

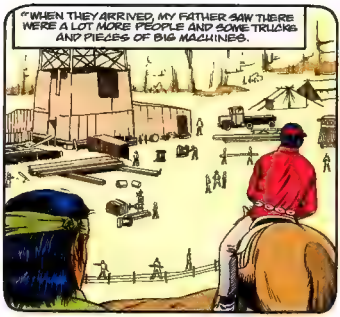
"MY FATHER WENT BACK HOME, AND OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HE RODE AROUND TELLING THE PEOPLE WHAT WAS HAPPENING. HE WAS ALREADY A RESPECTED YATAALI *, SO PEOPLE LISTENED TO HIM.
* HEALER

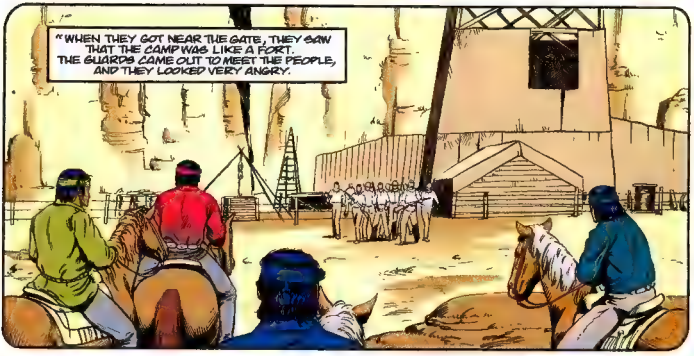

"THEY HAD A COUNCIL, AND DECIDED TO TAKE A GROUP OF MEN AND GO TO THE MESA TO TRY AND REASON WITH THE WHITE MEN. THEY HADN'T DEALT WITH THE WHITE MEN MUCH AT THAT TIME, AND THEY THOUGHT IF THEY KNEW WHAT A BIG MISTAKE THEY WERE MAKING, THEY MIGHT DECIDE NOT TO DRILL.
"AFTER ALL, THE TRADER WAS OFTEN WRONG ABOUT THINGS.

"THAT NIGHT MY FATHER STAYED UP LATE AFTER THE OTHERS WENT TO BED, LOOKING AT THE STARS AND THINKING.

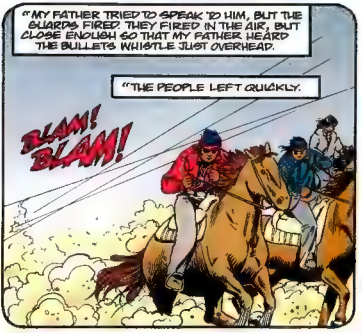

"HE SAID HE SAW A STRANGE THING. A BRIGHT OBJECT, LIKE A SHOOTING STAR, FLEW ACROSS THE SKY, HOVERED OVER THE HILLS AROUND TWO-WITCH MESA, AND THEN SLOWLY SANK OUT OF SIGHT. HE KNEW THE SKY VERY WELL, AND HE'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE.
WHOOOSH
"REMEMBER, THERE WERE NO SATELLITES BACK THEN. THERE WERE SOME AIRPLANES, BUT THEY WERE SLOW AND NEVER FLEW AT NIGHT--CERTAINLY NOT IN THAT PART OF THE RESERVATION.

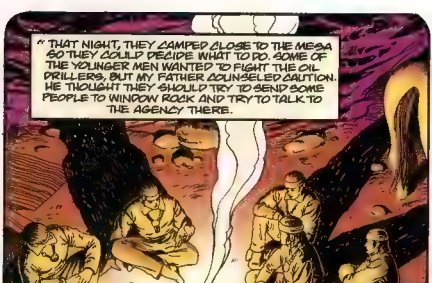

"IT SCARED HIM, THOUGH HE DIDN'T KNOW WHY. HE FELT IT WAS A BAD SIGN, BUT HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO THE OTHERS.
"THE NEXT MORNING, THEY RODE TO THE OIL DRILLING CAMP.


"WHEN THEY ARRIVED, MY FATHER SAW THERE WERE A LOT MORE PEOPLE AND SOME TRUCKS AND PIECES OF BIG MACHINES.


"WHEN THEY GOT NEAR THE GATE, THEY SAW THAT THE CAMP WAS LIKE A FORT. THE GUARDS CAME OUT TO MEET THE PEOPLE, AND THEY LOOKED VERY ANGRY.

"ONE OF THEM SPOKE LOUDLY TO MY FATHER. HE SPOKE ENGLISH, BUT MY FATHER COULD TELL HE WANTED THEM TO LEAVE.


"MY FATHER TRIED TO SPEAK TO HIM, BUT THE GUARDS FIRED! THEY FIRED IN THE AIR, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH SO THAT MY FATHER HEARD THE BULLETS WHISTLE JUST OVERHEAD.
"THE PEOPLE LEFT QUICKLY.
BLAM! BLAM!


" THAT NIGHT, THEY CAMPED CLOSE TO THE MESA SO THEY COULD DECIDE WHAT TO DO. SOME OF THE YOUNGER MEN WANTED TO FIGHT THE OIL DRILLERS, BUT MY FATHER COUNSELED CAUTION. HE THOUGHT THEY SHOULD TRY TO SEND SOME PEOPLE TO WINDOW ROCK AND TRY TO TALK TO THE AGENCY THERE.

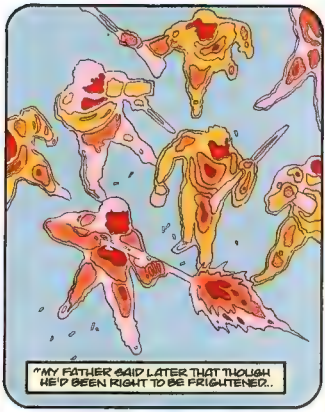
"MY FATHER SAID THE AIR SMELLED STRANGE THAT NIGHT, AND THERE WAS A FEELING OF DANGER IN THE AIR.

" LATE THAT NIGHT, FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE OIL CAMP, MY FATHER HEARD LAUGHTER AND GUNSHOTS.

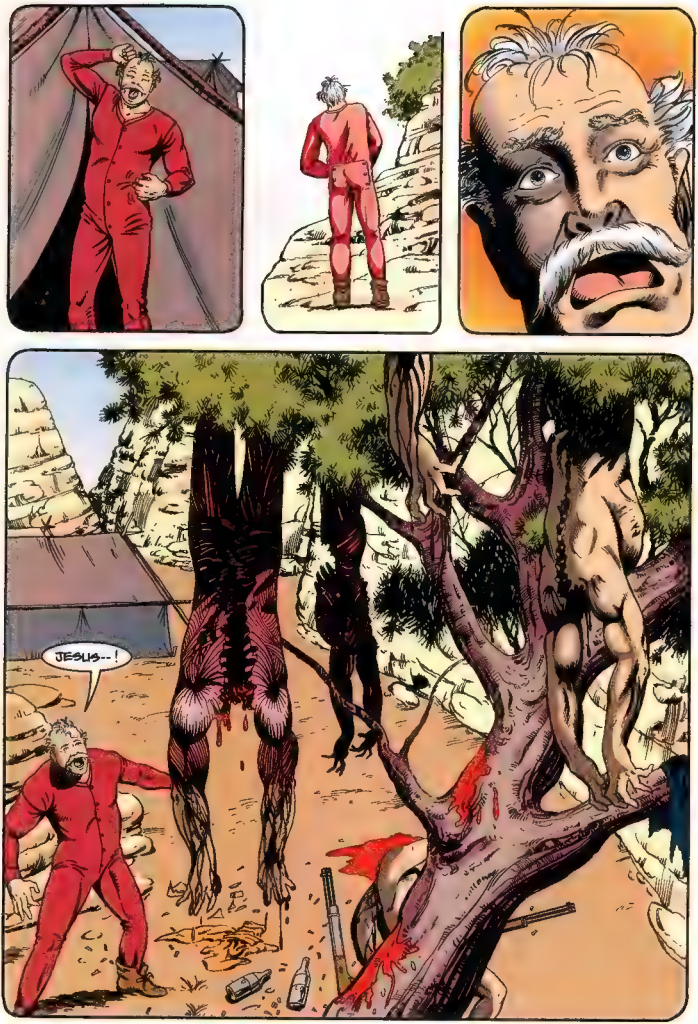
" LATER HE FOUND OUT THAT THE GUARDS WERE DRINKING AND HAVING A SHOOTING CONTEST.

PING!

"MY FATHER SAID HE THOUGHT HE COULD FEEL ANGRY GHOSTS ALL AROUND HIM. HE SAW THE AIR SHIMMER AS THEY WENT BY. HE SAID HE WAS NEVER SO SCARED IN HIS LIFE.


"MY FATHER SAID LATER THAT THOUGH HE'D BEEN RIGHT TO BE FRIGHTENED..

FZZZAT!
"...HE DOUBTED EVEN THE ANGRY GHOSTS OF THE OLD ONES WERE CAPABLE OF DOING WHAT WAS DONE TO THOSE GUARDS THAT NIGHT."


JESUS--!

I HATE THIS.
WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

HIDING IN THE SHADOWS.
I'M TRANSFERRING A PRISONER TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AT CITY HALL FOR QUESTIONING. HE'S GOING TO LINK CAPTAIN PIKE TO THE SYNDICATE. IF I SENT HIM THROUGH THE NORMAL CHANNELS HE'D BE SNUFFED.
HE'S A PARANORMAL. WE HIDE HIM IN A GARBAGE CAN.
HHHEY, FPUTT TTHE LIDD ONNN. WWATTERRSS GEDDDINGG UPP MMY NNNOSE!
WHICH IS WHERE HE BELONGS.
I'M USING THE PIT BULLS. HUMAN BEINGS TRAINED LIKE ATTACK DOGS. THEY OPERATE INDEPENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT.
THE ONE CALLED QUEENIE... YESTERDAY I SAVED HER LIFE.
SHE WON'T LOOK AT ME. LIKE I BROKE A RULE OR SOMETHING.
I HATE THIS.
RRR
UMPH

LOOK, I...
WHAT?
SKEERACK
ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
BREAK
HELLLP!
AND I GET THE HELL OUT.
SCREEEE
QUEENIE, TAKE WELLMAN AND GO! WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF HERE!
BRAK

SHE DOESN'T LIKE LEAVING THE OTHERS.
HEY! WHADDA-BOUT MY FROOT?
KABLAM
KABLAM
PIKE'S THROWING EVERYTHING AT US TONIGHT.
THIS IS GONNA BE EASY AS ONE...
...TWO...
...THREE!
GET--
--GOING!
THAP
I'D BE DEAD...
THAP
THAP
THAP
IF THEY WERE ANY FASTER...
...THAN A SPEEDING BULLET.

MUST BE SIMPLER TO SEE THE WORLD THROUGH ONE EYE. EVERYTHING FLAT.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
LIKE SHOOTING AT TARGETS INSTEAD OF REAL PEOPLE.
YOU NEED HELP, WELL,MAN. ARE YOU GOING TO TURN IT DOWN?
WELL... ARE YOU?
HE COMES WITH US, WHICH IS CRAZY. THIS IS ALL TO MAKE PUBLIC A FILE PIKE IS SITTING ON. A FILE THAT WILL HELP CATCH HIM.
THEN IT ALL FALLS APART.
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT.

THAT DOESN'T STOP HIM.
SPLIT
KLUD
QUEENIE GETS HIT BY A PSIONIC.
HE KEEPS GOING.
MUNCH
MMMPH! MMMPH!
THEY DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO LAUGH OR THROW UP.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
SPLIT
CHICK
AND THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER.

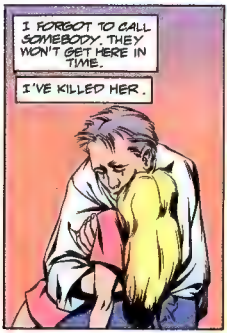
HOLD IT.
THE VOICE FREEZES EVERYONE.
HELLO WELLMAN.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DOING PRETTY GOOD TONIGHT.
I'M GOING TO HANG YOU OUT TO DRY, PIKE.
YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
REALLY.
I'VE GOT A FRIEND ON THE LINE. HE HAS A LONG-RANGE RIFLE AND HE'S VERY GOOD WITH IT. NEVER FIRES MORE THAN ONE SHOT.
RIGHT NOW IT'S AIMED THROUGH THE UPSTAIRS WINDOW OF YOUR HOUSE.
" HE CAN SEE YOUR SIX-YEAR-OLD. SHE'S ASLEEP.
" YOU WANT HER TO WAKE UP? EVER?"
HE WAITS FOR MY DECISION. THAT EYE, WATCHING A FLAT WORLD.
OHHH MMANN... PPLEASE...
IT STARES ME DOWN.

OH GOD...
HAND HIM OVER.
WAIT SEE IT'S REALLY HARD FOR ME TO DIE AND THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP TRYING AND TRYING AND THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO GET IT RIGHT PLEASE DON'T LET THEM DO THIS YOU PROMISED YOU PROMISED--!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY. I DON'T EVEN HAVE A FILE ON THIS CHARACTER.
UH...OH YEAH.
DO IT.
POP

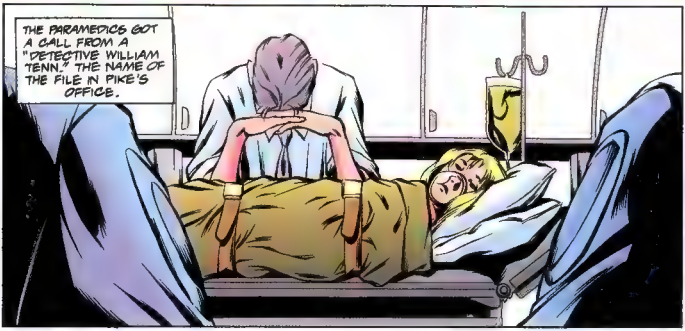
NO.

NO... PLEASE.
DO IT!
I'M NOT THINKING STRAIGHT. I JUST START RUNNING FOR HOME.
I'LL NEVER BE THE SAME. I'M OUTSIDE THE LAW NOW.
HE'S PULLED ME OVER THE LINE.

THE BULLET WENT THROUGH THE BEAR'S HEAD INSTEAD OF HERS.
BUT IT HIT HER IN THE LUNGS.


I FORGOT TO CALL SOMEBODY. THEY WON'T GET HERE IN TIME.
I'VE KILLED HER.

HOW...?


THE PARAMEDICS GOT A CALL FROM A "DETECTIVE WILLIAM TENN." THE NAME OF THE FILE IN PIKE'S OFFICE.

"TENN." "X." CUTE.
PIKE NEVER KEPT A FILE. HE MANUFACTURED IT TO LEAD ME TO PIKE, WHO WAS CORRUPT AS HELL.
WHY ME? WHY DIDN'T HE JUST SHOOT PIKE HIMSELF?
MY GUESS? HE WANTED ME ON HIS SIDE OF THE LINE.
HE SAW ME FOR WHO I WAS. WANTED ME OUT OF THE WAY. NOW I WON'T GET CAUGHT WHEN HE BRINGS DOWN THE POLICE...
POLICE. HELL. LET ME TELL YOU, IN THIS CITY...
NOBODY'S SAFE.

COMMENTS

10956 SE MAIN ST, MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Good morning! Edward Martin III here, with this month's missives from afar. It's good to hear from readers but I haven't heard from enough of you lately. My little folder for mail is frightfully slim and I would love to hear your comments and criticisms. **Dark Horse Comics** *exists to bring you the best licensed and company-owned short stories possible and if we're missing that boat, let us know. On the other hand, if you like what you see, tell us and we'll make sure it happens again. Only bigger.*

"but this was quite intriguing and effective"

Dear Randy, Edward, & folks,

DHC #16 was pretty good. I am always pleased with the production values of this comic and this is no exception. However, I keep hoping that we will get stories of other characters besides Predators and Aliens. I remember that there have been other characters.

I must say that I found the ending of **The Thing from Another World:** "Questionable Research" to be quite moving. Having done all he could up to and including the ending of his own life, Douglas sees that the battle was all in vain. I know that this character cannot be killed off due to the license, at least I don't think so, but this was quite intriguing and effective as an ending.

The Predator story is starting out fairly good. Better than the last one and I liked that one a fair amount. The Aliens story was rather predictable though. The guy had to win for the story to work and sure enough, he did.

Overall, this was a good issue. Not great, but good enough to spend my money on and that's what counts, I suppose, no?

Thanks for the fun and I will try to be by more often with missives for you. Take care and have fun yourselves as well.

Until next time...

Carl Pietrantonio
517 Idylwood Lane
Laredo, TX 78041

Carl, I'm sorry we missed you last issue, but it's good to see you're back with us, here in the Land o' Dark Horse. As you might have noticed by now, starting with issue #18, we've been printing on a slightly higher quality paper, which results in more vibrant colors and a smoother finish. Unfortunately, it's still not edible. I would say that I'm happy you enjoyed the end of "Questionable Research," but then again, are you sure *that was the end...?*

Dear Edward,

First off I have to say what a great thrill it was to have my first comic-book letter printed and unbelievable to have it selected as Letter of the Month and receive a platinum edition of ***RoboCop versus The Terminator*** #1, the very series that attracted me back to Dark Horse and comics in general after a long absence. It is the showpiece of my collection. I've dabbled in fiction writing myself and even tried to get into the creative writing program at Georgia State University, so it was nice to have my writing praised by an editor and published writer. Rest assured that you have my vote for *Comics Buyer's Guide* favorite editor, although I think Diana Schutz is also fabulous.

On to ***Dark Horse Comics*** #16. Another strong issue with two great endings and a great beginning. You could see the punchline to **Aliens:** "Cargo" coming from a mile away, but the increasingly maniacal cast to Gerald Coile's features made it all worthwhile. Great facial expressions by John Nadeau.

Predator: "The Hunted City" reads like an ultraviolet *Sandman Mystery Theater* and looks like it will be a fantastic series. It's another example of the great period pieces that are possible with Predator stories. And to think that I attended a convention with Charles Moore as a guest and was too timid to talk with him. Not a mistake I'll make twice.

The Thing from Another World: "Questionable Research" ended with very strong echoes of the movie remake. Based on this strong story and ***DHC***'s track record as a jumping-off point for new miniseries, I'm looking forward to ***Eternal Vows*** with great expectation.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that you were right in predicting that I would like ***Predator: Bad Blood***. I'm eagerly awaiting the next issue to find out where the story leads. One last question: Will there ever be a Grendel story in ***DHC***? That would be a dream come true.

Tony Ard
P.O. Box 2297
Statesboro, GA 30459

What a pleasure it is to hear from you again, Tony! Isn't it funny how your prize was exactly what you wanted (without even knowing!)? It's one of my jobs to

understand my readers as best as possible and to keep you supplied with the best possible work that I can. Keep me on my toes, will you?

I can't imagine why Grendel would appear in the pages of **Dark Horse Comics** *when he already has* **Grendel Tales**, *the most excellent all-Grendel anthology to appear in over two hundred years. If you haven't picked up a copy, do so at once and live fulfilled.*

Although there are no plans to continue the storylines from ***Predator:*** *"The Hunted City," look for more of Charles Moore's work to appear in Caliber's* Dominique Special *and DC's* Blood Pack *and* The Conglomerate. *Charles is a decent guy and hopes you'll introduce yourself next time you're at a convention together.*

"The art is very noir"

Dear Randy and Edward,

First of all, the cover of ***DHC*** #16 is great! The Impressionistic style captures the violence of the Predator. The colors are very appropriate and add violence to the picture. Kudos to Mr. Pratt.

The conclusion of **Aliens:** "Cargo" was predictable yet fun. The method he used to herd the Alien was clever, but what he did to his former employer was *very* predictable. I liked it, even though it was predictable.

Predator: "The Hunted City" hasn't caught my interest yet. At this point, it seems to be the usual "Predator hunts humans, one human gets pissed and starts to hunt the Predator successfully" story, unlike ***Predator: Bad Blood***. The art is very noir and appropriate to the era depicted. I'm hoping that Max, the freelance crime reporter, becomes the adversary of the Predator as indicated by the Predator's interest in his camera. If this is so, this could be a very interesting tale.

The Thing from Another World: "Questionable Research" came to a very satisfying conclusion. I must compliment Messrs. Naifeh and Niño's art again. It gives the story that extra suspense, not that the script lacked any. The sequence on pages 20 to 21 of this issue was particularly gripping.

Until next month,

Link W. Herrman
305 North Oak
Goddard, KS 67052-0137
linkster@bix.com
lwherrman@aol.com

Being a fan of Impressionism myself, Link, I have to admit a certain fondness for this cover. Somehow, it's difficult not to think of some form of nobility when I think of a Predator. Here are creatures that have been preying for centuries, not only on humans, but on many other species, and still can wear fishnet T-shirts well. Go figure...

Link, I have the privilege of awarding you this month's Letter-of-the-Month Award, which is a set of rare Aliens checklist cards, featuring terrific art by Mark Nelson. I hope you like them!

Dear Ed an' Randy,

Slightly below average outing with ***Dark Horse Comics*** #16.

Predator: "The Hunted City" part one was yet another blood-splattered horror show. Seriously, can we retire this title? The art by Alexander Gregory and Rob Haynes was excellent however, vividly reminiscent of Mike Mignola. Keep these two!

The conclusion of **Aliens:** "Cargo" was decent, but my comments about Predator apply here. Also, where the hell do these people find Aliens to use as murder weapons?

Lastly, **The Thing from Another World:** "Questionable Research" ended, well, with a nice creepy epilogue. Because Barbara touched Douglas' hand on page 20, middle panel, doesn't that mean he's infected? Last issue we learned that an organism can be infected by The Thing without knowing it, so Douglas could very easily be infected.

Later, gators...

Robert Knaus
320 Fisher Street
Walpole, MA 02081

Bob, you may be assuming that The Thing has no conscious control over who (or what!) it infects and your question reflects this doubt. Perhaps Douglas is infected. Then again, maybe not. Let's face it, this creature is alien. *We suppose and guess and conjecture until we run out of sedatives but the only person who really understands isn't telling!*

I hope you found ***Predator:*** *"Blood on Two-Witch Mesa" more to your liking. Terry can tell a good story, as is evidenced in his series* Cud *and* Unsupervised Existence. *Very cool stuff. Do check it out. Howard's art hasn't been published by Dark Horse since his work on* **Virus**, *but as you can see, he's better than before (as if that were possible).*

Next month, **Dark Horse Comics** *#21 features Mecha, in his first solo run since last summer's fabulous* **Comics' Greatest World** *series, slamming toe-to-toe with the most rockin' supervillian this side of Chicago. Also, in the dust-streaked conclusion to* ***Predator:*** *"Blood on Two-Witch Mesa," Enoch's grandfather faces his own devil under the hot desert sun. And don't expect the Predator to lose* this *time!*

Look for **Dark Horse Comics** *#21, shipping May 31, 1994. Buy an extra for a friend!*

–Edward Martin III

One MAN'S death rattle is another MAN'S symphony

ALIENS
MUSIC OF THE SPEARS

The DEADLIEST of creatures can make the LOVELIEST of noises

MONTHLY

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Bimonthly - APRIL 1994
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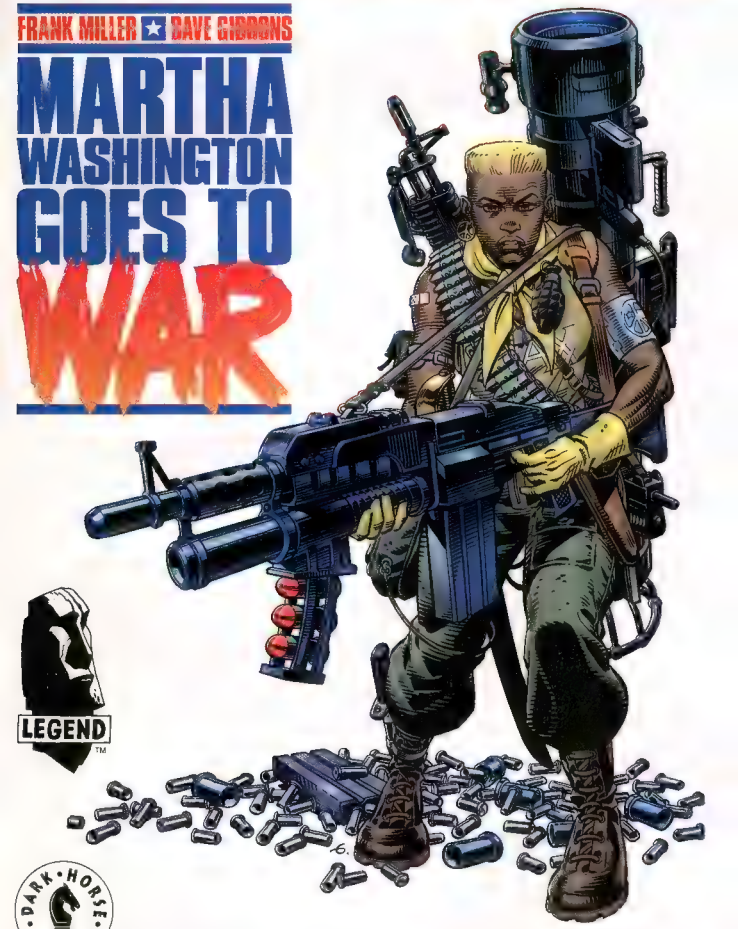

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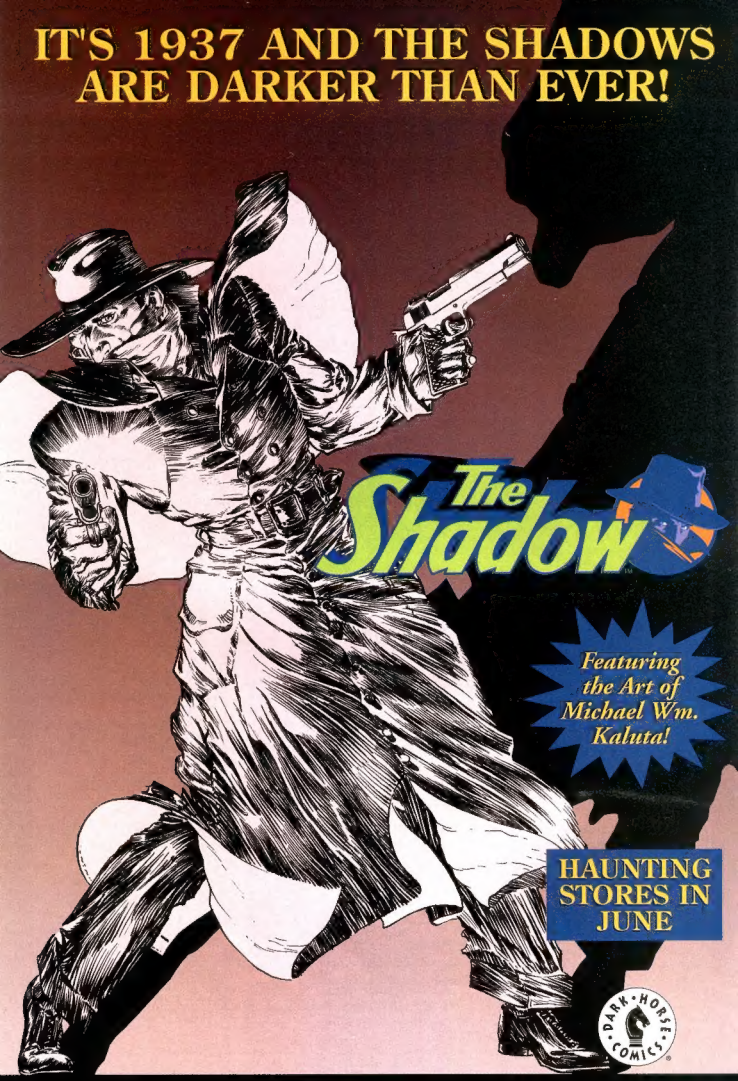
IT'S 1937 AND THE SHADOWS ARE DARKER THAN EVER!



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FINISH LINE

Well, hello again! It's been quite a while since we last met on these pages and I can't tell you what a long, strange trip it's been! You remember me, Bob Schreck, the former marketing director, now special projects director, here at Dark Horse. Well, special projects director is a real misnomer — I'm actually a management level editor and *all* of the projects at Dark Horse are special, those I edit as well as those edited by my fellow workers. In March of 1992 Mike Richardson and I decided to change my focus to a full-time editorial position. This was due to the many projects I nurtured during my years as Comico's administrative director. He wanted me to go out and bring Dark Horse some new projects while also breathing new life into some of the company's older titles that had been lying dormant. This resulted in books like *Urban Legends*, *Fat Dog Mendoza*, *The Mark*, *Enemy*, and *Rack & Pain*.

I'm extremely blessed to be working with some of the finest craftsmen in our field as my current list of titles includes Mike Allred's *Madman Comics*, Dave Steven's (fabled) *Rocketeer Adventure Magazine* #3, Kurt Busiek and Neil Vokes' *Jonny Demon*, Joe Kubert on the *Medal of Honor* series, and Jim Silke's *Rascals in Paradise*, to name drop a few! I can't tell you what a pleasure it is to be working with so many talented and dedicated artisans. Pinch me!

Speaking of talent and dedication, let's move on to why I am in such a good mood these days! If you haven't already noticed in our management credits, we have added the extremely talented (and wacky!), Lou Bank to our company roster. Lou is an old friend who comes to us after several successful years at Marvel Comics. Lou is our spanking new vice president of marketing and sales and as such will be "fearless leader" to our already top-notch marketing staff which includes Kris Young, Chuck Matthews, Cheryl Cink, Dave Weigel, Michael Cox, and John Dennett. But that's not all! Lou's newly hired right-hand man is another super-duper talent, the witty and charming Michael Martens, formerly of Capital City Distribution. As our new marketing director Michael brings 13 years of experience as a major player at a major distributor. We have also added Ms. Lynn Zartman to our marketing team. She will be focusing on product development, which she has done successfully for companies like Applause and Dakin.

But my happy feet are still dancing because we are also adding Cindy Marks, yet another respected, very gifted, good buddy in the biz! Cindy is also from Capital City (and comes with loving ball-and-chain Michael attached). She will be taking over as our new director of design and production and is more than qualified due to her Herculean feat of producing Capital City's monthly *Advance Comics* tome. The hits keep comin' folks, because we're also bringing in a new art director in the form of one Mark Cox, formerly of Tundra and Marvel UK fame. Mark arrives with the John Bolton seal of approval, so we're looking forward to great things from him.

Now, those of you who know me can attest that I can be one real cynical, jaded puppy when I want to be. However, I can't control my enthusiasm over the fact that all of these hard-working folks are joining the already excellent existing pool of talent on staff in our management, editorial, design, coloring, accounting, and operations departments here at Dark Horse Comics.

All I can say is that if you thought Dark Horse was a force to be reckoned with in the past — you ain't seen nothin' yet! Think about this fantastic staff working side by side with the finest group of writers, artists, letterers, and colorists this field has to offer and you'll know that surely, the sky is the limit.

And yes, I'm still...
Just tryin' to be,
Bob Schreck

APRIL CHECKLIST

SHIPPING APRIL 5

- ❑ ALIENS: COLONIAL MARINES #9
- ❑ APPLESEED DATABOOK #1
- ❑ CLASSIC STAR WARS #18
- ❑ JOE R. LANSDALE'S BY BIZARRE HANDS #1
- ❑ RACK & PAIN #2
- ❑ SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR #5
- ❑ X #3

SHIPPING APRIL 12

- ❑ ATLAS #2
- ❑ BUBBLEGUM CRISIS: GRAND MAL #2
- ❑ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #84
- ❑ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN: POWER #2
- ❑ MADMAN COMICS #1
- ❑ OUT OF THE VORTEX #7

SHIPPING APRIL 19

- ❑ ALIENS: MUSIC OF THE SPEARS #4
- ❑ BARB WIRE #1
- ❑ CARAVAN KIDD PART 2 #10
- ❑ COUTOO
- ❑ GRENDEL TALES: DEVIL'S HAMMER #3
- ❑ HELLBOY: SEED OF DESTRUCTION #2
- ❑ INDIANA JONES AND THE ARMS OF GOLD #3
- ❑ STAR WARS: DROIDS #1

SHIPPING APRIL 26

- ❑ CATALYST: AGENTS OF CHANGE #3
- ❑ DANGER UNLIMITED #3
- ❑ DARK HORSE COMICS #20
- ❑ DARK HORSE INSIDER #30
- ❑ DRACULA COLD-CAST FIGURE KIT
- ❑ HELLHOUNDS #3
- ❑ KING KONG BUST
- ❑ MEDAL OF HONOR SPECIAL
- ❑ THE SHADOW: IN THE COILS OF LEVIATHAN #4
- ❑ HARD LOOKS BOOK ONE (TRADE PAPERBACK)
- ❑ INTRON DEPOT (TRADE PAPERBACK)
- ❑ OUTLANDERS 3 (TRADE PAPERBACK)

IT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO
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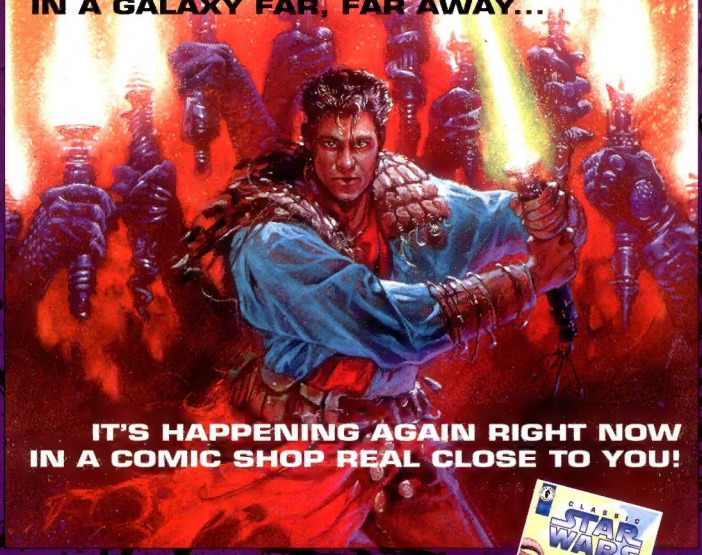

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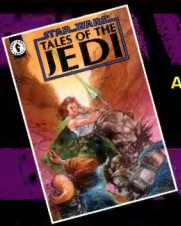

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